

## AMHERST PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2005

Commission members: Gretchen Fox and Terry Rooney (Co-Chairs), Carol Lee, Mary Klaes, Larry Siddall.

FY 05 marked a number of changes in APAC's membership: Edith Byron left the Commission after many years; Petula Bloomfield resigned, much to our regret; Lora Simon decided not to accept reappointment to a second term. Carol Pope was appointed as a new member and served until June, when she resigned.

Amherst Public Art Commission (APAC) began the year with the installation, in Town Hall, of Mark Ricker's stained glass window, entitled Pangaean Laurel. Two hundred copies of a pamphlet, the design for which was donated by Donna Kurkel, served as an invitation (informative of APAC's mandate and the window) to a dedication ceremony on October 7, 2004. That event was held in conjunction with a reception that marked the retirement of Edith Byron as chair and member of APAC for ten very productive years. A commemorative bookmark was issued and distributed at the reception showing significant art installations commissioned during Ms. Byron's tenure on the Commission.

In addition to these small publicity pieces, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, and *Amherst Bulletin* published lead articles in their art sections on the window, and the *Union News* gave it front-page full-color coverage in its supplement, *Hampshire Plus*. The Town of Amherst began to feature APAC-commissioned art work on its website, as well.

Based on the successful reception of the "mini-murals" painted on the columns of Boltwood Garage, a proposal was submitted to the Amherst Cultural Council for painting ten more columns, and \$1,000 was awarded. After a competition was held, only four artists' submissions were accepted by APAC, and those columns were completed in June 2005. The artists, Brienne Cosman, Ian Reed, Arno Pinsennault, and Tina Swift, were each paid \$100, as stipulated in the grant and in the call for competition. Particularly notable is the garage column by Ian Reed, which features caricatures of people the artist has observed in Amherst. Donations of goods by Cowles Lumber Building Supply and Leader Home Center, in addition to ACC, are acknowledged in a laminated paper sign affixed to the garage wall at the entry point.

The winners of this year's Visiting Art competition, Marcie Lenke, Seymour Friedman, and Brianna Taylor, were each paid \$100, and their work exhibited for three months each, with a 25% commission resulting from any sales to be remitted to APAC, to partially fund the continuance of that popular program. No sales resulted from this project, but the art enlivening the Town Hall walls seems to be greatly appreciated by employees and the public alike. Again, excellent publicity in the three papers was given to the two projects commissioned this year.

Gretchen Fox, Co-Chair